

Long Beach Ten Year Plan: Research Summary

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Title of Article: "Addressing Long-Term Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing"

Date:

1. Please describe the goal of the project/program found in the article/report?
 - The goal of this report is to provide the California State Legislature, the State Agency Task Force on Homelessness, and local jurisdictions with information to better understand and assess the role of permanent supportive housing in addressing long-term homelessness in California.
2. What were the key points?

The key points of the policy report are as follows:

- Permanent supportive housing was defined as affordable housing linked with ongoing help that can keep the formerly homeless living independently.
- Many different types of Homeless persons were identified and several statistics and definitions were given. They found that in contrast to the transitionally homeless, long-term homeless people need ongoing support and assistance to stay housed and become a part of their community.
- The production of permanent supportive housing was outlined including who provides funding for the housing as well as the components of long-term support. Funding comes from the federal, state and local levels with most of the decisions being made at the state level. Local agencies are often faith-based organizations.
- Supply and demand for homeless support was evaluated and estimations were made. Data is needed to accurately calculate the size and need of the long-term homeless population and to determine the outcomes of specific interventions and programs. However, important data – population numbers, needs,

available housing, barriers and program results — is incomplete. As a result, data cannot be compared in a meaningful way.

- Findings from other studies were evaluated. Three conclusions were drawn from the research and they are as follows:
 1. Permanent supportive housing improves housing stability and other outcomes. 90 percent of the program participants remained housed after five years compared with less than fifty percent of the control group.
 2. Permanent supportive housing reduces the use of high cost service interventions; as a result, it may cost close to the same amount as the public is already spending on the long-term homeless population.
 3. Permanent supportive housing does not negatively impact neighborhoods and communities. Depending upon the context in which it is built, permanent supportive housing will be accepted or rejected. For example, neighborhoods who perceive that they are already “saturated” with supportive housing are likely to oppose new developments.
- Barriers and challenges to increasing the availability of permanent supportive housing were identified. There is not enough supportive housing available and the low-cost housing that does exist is being lost to more lucrative development.
- Options for action were given as solutions to the current homeless situation in California they are as follows:
 1. Develop plans to end, rather than to manage homelessness.
 2. Make prevention of homelessness a priority.
 3. Quickly re-house everyone who becomes homeless.
 4. Rebuild the infrastructure to address the conditions that lead to homelessness.

3. Is this a proposal or an existing project/program? If the project/program was completed, what were the outcomes? If it is a proposal, what are the expected outcomes?
 - This is a proposal based on research that has come from other areas that have instituted permanent supportive housing. Researchers have found that two studies determined that while specific housing developments may create problems (especially those that are poorly managed and maintained), permanent supportive housing units generally had a neutral or positive effect on the neighborhoods and communities studied. The

expected outcome is that permanent supportive housing, once instituted, will help greatly reduce homelessness in California.

4. Who was involved and how did they meet the project goals?
 - Research was based on case-studies around the United States. Federal, State and Local governments and their funding programs were highlighted and existing homeless policies were outlined.
5. How was it funded? How much did it cost?
 - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides the majority of direct funding for housing programs. It awards funding to cities, counties or local jurisdictions.
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds programs with services that support permanent supportive housing.
 - Many state departments and agencies operate programs that impact permanent supportive housing. The main ones are the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Department of Health Services (DHS) as well as several others.
 - Funding currently exists from federal, state and local governments. Most funding, considered Mainstream programs already exist and are used to assist low-income people and families. As a result, mainstream systems have generally deferred serving this population to homeless-targeted programs, evading the costs and responsibility of helping their most disadvantaged and difficult to serve clients.
6. Any pertinent statistics found?
 - This policy report has many pertinent statistics including the estimated number of homeless people currently living in California and how many housing units are available. It also gives estimates on how many more housing units are needed as well as ideas for creating more housing.
 - According to the report, there are over 360,000 homeless persons in California and there is an unmet need for close to 50,000 permanent supportive housing units for individuals, and over 75,000 units for families.
 - According to homeless counts, single men make up almost half (45%) of the state homeless population; more than a third (30-35%) are veterans. Single women represent about 14% and

families (comprised of women with very young children) represent 40% of the homeless population.

7. Any unique approaches to ending homelessness identified?
 - This entire policy report defines a unique approach to homelessness. Permanent supportive housing seems to be a non-traditional approach to helping the homeless and the important aspect of this approach is the long-term care which will help keep people from returning to homelessness. If successful, then homeless people will have viable options for staying housed and rejoining the community as a whole.
8. Any questions raised by this plan?
 - There are several questions raised by this plan and most of them are in regard to the financing of permanent supportive housing. While it is an excellent solution for alleviating the homeless problem in California, it will be a costly endeavor and there seems to be limited funding. Aside from the federal, state and local programs already instituted, it will be hard to secure additional funds to provide housing for a group of people often marginalized by society.
9. Potential goals to include in the matrix?
 - a) Funding options for renewing effective existing projects from that allocated for new permanent supportive housing.
 - b) Make mainstream programs more accessible in the meantime.
 - c) Make prevention of homelessness a priority.
 - d) Collect as much data as possible.